AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method for accelerating nerve regeneration in a mammal, which comprises administering to a mammal an effective amount of ~~the~~ a fatty acid compound excluding retinoic acid and a prostaglandin compound ~~described in any one of claims 1 to 8~~, a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for culturing a cell for transplant, which comprises adding an effective amount of ~~the~~ a fatty acid compound excluding retinoic acid and a prostaglandin compound ~~described in any one of claims 1 to 8~~, a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof to a medium comprising a nerve stem cell for transplant, a nerve precursor cell for transplant or a nerve cell for transplant.

Claims 23-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A medicament which comprises a combination of ~~the~~ a fatty acid compound excluding retinoic acid and a prostaglandin compound ~~described in any one of claims 1 to 8~~, a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof with at least one selected from an acetylcholine esterase inhibitor, a nicotinic receptor regulator, a β secretase inhibitor, a γ secretase inhibitor, a β amyloid protein aggregation inhibitor, a β amyloid vaccine, a β amyloid protease, a brain function activator, a dopamine receptor agonist, a monoamine oxidase inhibitor, an anticholinergic drug, a catechol-O-methyltransferase inhibitor, a drug for treating amyotrophic

lateral sclerosis, a drug for treating hyperlipidemia, a drug for treating abnormal behavior and/or poriomania accompanied with progress of dementia, an apoptosis inhibitor, a drug for accelerating nerve differentiation and/or regeneration, an antihypertensive drug, a drug for treating diabetes, an antidepressant drug, an antianxiety drug, a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug, a disease modifying antirheumatic drug, a TNF inhibitor, a MAP kinase inhibitor, a steroid drug, a sex hormone derivative, parathyroid hormone and a calcium acceptor antagonist.

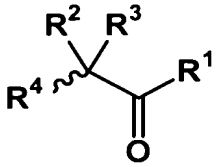
26. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein the fatty acid compound is an unsaturated fatty acid compound.

27. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein the fatty acid compound is a saturated fatty acid compound.

28. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein the fatty acid compound is a branched chain fatty acid compound.

29. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein the fatty acid compound is a linear or branched chain fatty acid compound having from 4 to 20 carbon atoms.

30. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein the fatty acid compound is represented by formula (I):



(I)

wherein R^1 represents hydroxyl; R^2 and R^3 each independently represents (a) hydrogen, (b) chlorine, (c) C3-10 alkyl, (d) C3-10 alkenyl, (e) C2-10 alkoxy, (f) C2-10 alkylthio, (g) C3-7 cycloalkyl, (h) phenyl, (i) phenoxy, (j) (C2-10 alkyl substituted with one or two chorine

atom(s))-CH_2-, (k) (C1-5 alkyl substituted with one or two substituent(s) selected from C1-4 alkoxy, C3-7 cycloalkyl, phenyl and phenoxy)-CH_2-, (l) (C1-10 alkyl in which one carbon atom is substituted with 1 to 3 fluorine atom(s))-CH_2-, or (m) oxidized C3-10 alkyl, or R^2 and R^3 are taken together to represent C3-10 alkylidene; and R^4 represents C2-3 alkyl or oxidized C2-3 alkyl.

31. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein the fatty acid compound is (1) 2-propyloctanoic acid, (2) (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid, (3) (2S)-2-propyloctanoic acid, (4) 2-propylpentanoic acid, (5) (2R)-7-oxo-2-propyloctanoic acid, (6) (2R,7R)-7-hydroxyl-2-propyloctanoic acid, (7) (2R,7S)-7-hydroxyl-2-propyloctanoic acid, or (8) (2R)-8-hydroxyl-2-propyloctanoic acid.

32. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein the fatty acid compound is (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid.

33. (New) The method according to claim 21, which is useful for regenerating a nerve tissue or a neural function.

34. (New) The method according to claim 21, which is useful for accelerating grafting, differentiating, proliferating and/or maturing of a stem cell, a nerve precursor cell or a nerve cell.

35. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein the stem cell is an embryonic stem cell, a myeloid stem cell or a nerve stem cell.

36. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein the stem cell, the nerve precursor cell or the nerve cell is an endogenous cell.

37. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein the stem cell, the nerve precursor cell or the nerve cell is a transplant cell.

38. (New) The method according to claim 21, which is useful for inducing a nerve cell from a mesenchymal cell, a bone marrow stromal cell or a glia cell.

39. (New) The method according to claim 38, wherein the glia cell is an astrocyte.

40. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein the nerve is a central nerve or a peripheral nerve.

41. (New) The method according to claim 40, wherein the central nerve is a cerebral nerve, a spinal nerve or an optic nerve.

42. (New) The method according to claim 40, wherein the peripheral nerve is a motor nerve or a sensory nerve.

43. (New) The method according to claim 21, which is useful for culture of a nerve stem cell for transplant, a nerve precursor cell for transplant or a nerve cell for transplant.

44. (New) The method according to claim 21, which is useful for supplying neurotrophy.